



ICFAD

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF FINE ARTS DEANS

A MULTI-NATIONAL ALLIANCE
OF EXECUTIVE ARTS ADMINISTRATORS



The 56th Annual Conference of the International Council of Fine Arts Deans

AT&T CONFERENCE CENTER
AUSTIN, TEXAS
OCTOBER 2 – 5, 2019





CREATIVITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

There is a growing question about the 20th century's psychological concept of creativity, almost 100 years since introduced, and its relevance in preparing students to thrive in a world whose problems exceed the limits of creativity in any single discipline. There is a need to take a good hard look at the question and asks, how can the concept of creativity be understood from an individual, internal process into a force that also generates between people? For example, how creativity differentiates the different degrees of collaboration from pure networking to team working to a highly convergent form of collaboration (group/community creativity). Also, the question of how collaboration should work from the viewpoint of different disciplines in the arts.

Academic deans need to understand how and why universities are reimagining creativity for the 21st century. It makes a compelling case for administrators to question the traditional structures in higher education and to become change leaders in preparing students for a future through collaborative creativity. Therefore, we are witnessing a new era of creativity in arts administration is beginning to take shape.

These topics came up as part of the new ICFAD book *Leonardo's Children: Stories on Creativity by Fine Arts Deans that will Blow your Mind* edited by two presenters. This book is a collection of 13 articles by 19 authors from the U.S. and Europe explores the role and value of creativity in bringing people together from across disciplinary boundaries to solve problems in today's hyper-connected and complex world.



STEVE PETERS is Dean of the College of Fine Arts at University of Montevallo. His leadership at Montevallo has entailed positioning the arts as a driver of campus-wide innovation through fundraising, regional partnerships, as well as creation of new certificate programs, programs in interdisciplinary digital media, and cross-college partnerships. Peters has supervised the completion of two multi-million-dollar facilities in art and communication at UM since 2015, and launched construction on a new "collaboratory" for the arts that opens in 2020.

An advocate for the transformative power of the arts in higher education, Peters is the founder of the annual Forte Festival of Creativity, a creative placemaking and revitalization project linking artists and communities in Alabama. He was President of the Association for Theatre in Higher Education, and he served on the boards of the International Council of Fine Arts Deans, Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences, and the Kansas Association for the Arts in Education. Peters led the Wichita Arts Council's Cultural Funding Committee that awarded grants to the city's legacy and emerging arts organizations. Originally trained as a director, playwright and designer, Peters is a practicing artist who pursues an active research agenda by focusing on the construct of performance as a frame for examining group creativity and patient-caregiver interactions in healthcare and medical environments. He is co-author of a forthcoming book on creative practice in the 21st century, *Leonardo's Children: Stories on Creativity by Fine Arts Leaders that will Blow your Mind*.



ALDEMARO ROMERO JR. is the Dean and Professor at the Weissman School of Arts and Sciences at Baruch College, City University of New York. He has developed a significant number of outreach programs that include, but are not limited to, use of traditional media as well as the emerging electronic, social ones. He has produced/directed/written/hosted hundreds of TV and radio shows while writing hundreds of non-academic pieces in the form of regular newspaper columns and magazine articles. Dr. Romero has been involved in the visual and performing arts. His father was a symphony orchestra composer and conductor, and he has

followed his footsteps by conducting his and other composers' music. Dr. Romero's and his wife are collectors and patrons of visual arts. Pieces of their collection have been exhibited in New York City galleries in order to raise funds for his institution. He has been a member of ICFAD for 12 years. During that time, Dr. Romero has been Chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee and currently serves as a Board Member. As such he has developed a policy statement titled "Best Practices for Recruiting and Retaining Diverse Faculty for Institutions of Higher Education." He also developed ICFAD's strategy for social media. Together with Dr. Steven Peters, he has co-edited ICFAD's book *Leonardo's Children: Stories on Creativity by Fine Arts Leaders that will Blow your Mind*, co-authored by numerous ICFAD members and he is currently organizing ICFAD's 2020 International Symposium in Barcelona, Spain.

**THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 3, 2019**

**ROUNDTABLE
PRESENTATIONS**

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